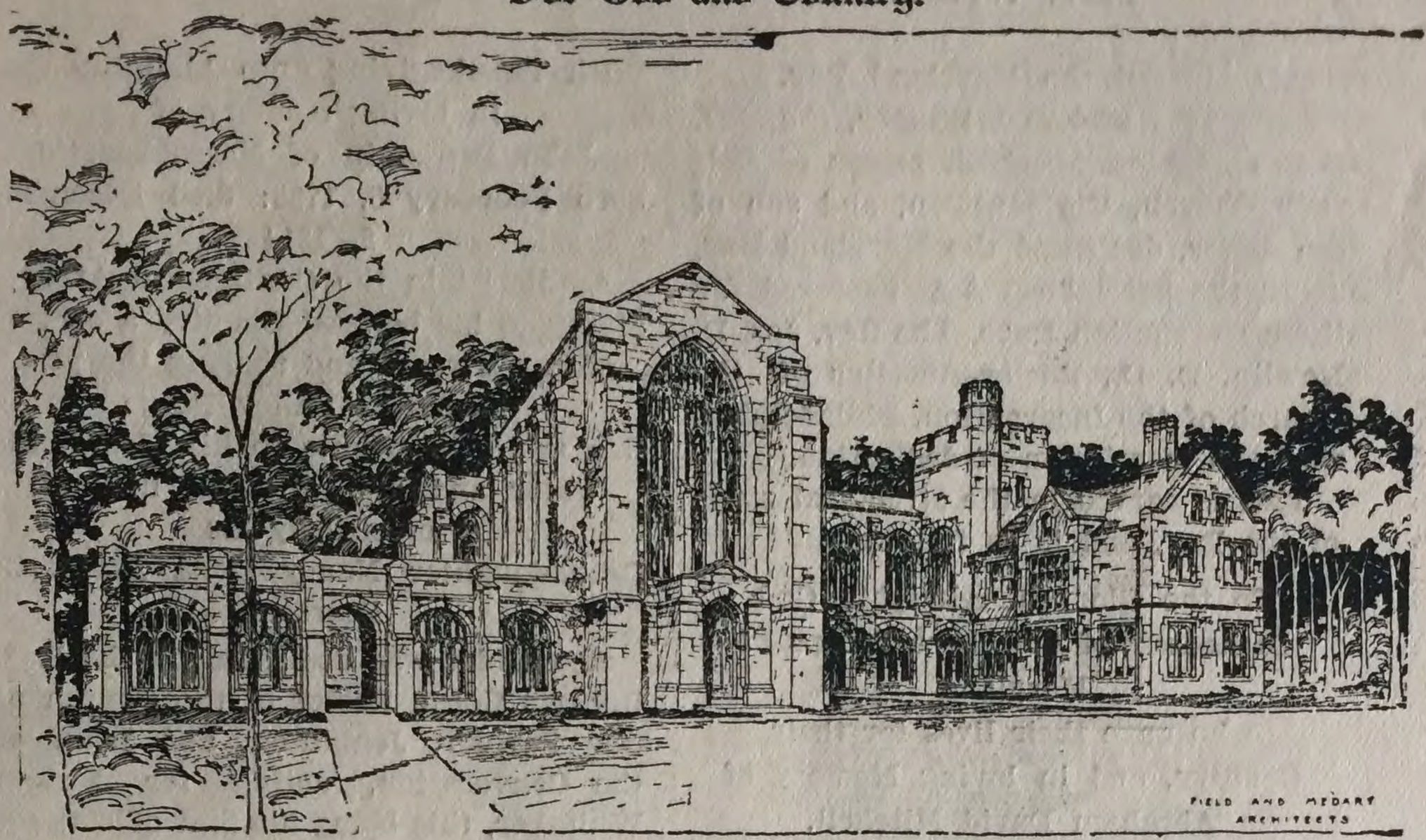
"For God and Country."



Cloister of the Colonies. Washington Memorial Chapel. Patriots' Hall. Tower and Rectory.

"No spot on earth—not the plains of Marathon, nor the passes of Sempach, nor the place of the Bastile, nor the dykes of Holland, nor the moors of England —is so sacred in the history of the struggle for human liberty as Valley Forge."

—CYRUS TOWNSEND BRADY.

The Washington Chapel Chronicle

Valley Forge,

A RECORD OF RELIGION AND PATRIOTISM.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE WASHINGTON CHAPEL GUILD.

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EVACUATION DAY, 1908.

Dedication of the Maryland Bay in the "Cloister of the Colonies."

Evacuation Day, 1908, will long be remembered by those who had the privilege of taking part in the beautiful and impressive service by which the Maryland Bay was dedicated. It was a perfect June day. For days men had been at work grading and sodding in front of the "Cloister of the Colonies" and as a result, many, for the first time, felt the charm of this unique monument and others saw in it new beauty.

The long procession of seventy or more vested choristers from the Chapel choirs, St. Paul's Memorial Church, Oaks, and All Saints' Church, Norristown, accompanied by a brass quartette, and followed by the clergy and the donors, sang the processional hymn as it marched from the parish house to the Cloister. The choirs passed through the Virginia Bay and countermarched so that the choristers were grouped just beyond the noble archway, while the

clergy entered the Maryland Bay.

Acting for Bishop Whitaker, the Rev. James Clayton Mitchell, rector of Calvary Church, Germantown, and son of the donor, dedicated the Maryland Bay, using the special service prepared for these Evacuation Days. The Rev. Jos. D. Newlin, D. D., Rector-emeritus of the Church of the Incarnation, Philadelphia, read the inscription of dedication.

This is carved in the structural stone of the Bay, and is as follows:

To the Glory of Almighty God
In honour of the brave Troops of
Maryland
who gave their lives for their
Country, and in loving Memory of
Abraham David Mitchell,
of Maryland,
and Jane Thompson Evans, his wife,
this Bay is erected by their son,
James Evans Mitchell,
1908

At the close of the service of dedication the choristers and clergy entered the Chapel, followed by the congregation, or as much of it as could find room within the walls. Advantage had been taken of the erection of a part of the Patriots' Hall, and on the girders of its first floor a platform had been built to accommodate a part of the choirs, openings being made through the temporary walls of the Chapel and choir room.

As soon as the processional hymn was sung the choirs and congregation united in singing "America." On the wall adjoining the doorway into what will in the future be the "Porch of the Allies" an American flag had been hung, falling gracefully from a crown of oak leaves. During the singing of the first stanza, Mr. Arthur E. Pearson, of Boston, Mass., a son of the donor, unveiled the John Benjamin tablet.

The inscription was read by the Rev. W. Herbert Burk, as follows:

With Thanksgiving unto Almighty God
in loving memory of
John Benjamin of Massachusetts
born February 5, 1758: died December
2, 1814
Artillerist in the Continental Army
giving to his beloved Country a service
of seven years and sharing the pri-
vations of Valley Forge
this tablet in tribute to his Honor, his
Valor and his faithful life is
erected by his
Granddaughter Nancy Delia Benjamin
Pearson

The tablet was dedicated by the Rev. Roberts Coles, Rector of the Church of Our Saviour, Jenkinton, and Dean of the Convocation, acting for Bishop Whitaker, this being his first official act as Dean.

The address was made by the Rev. John Andrews Harris, D. D., Rector of St. Paul's Church, Chestnut Hill. The address was a masterpiece and will have a permanent place in the literature of Valley Forge. Through the courtesy of Dr. Harris and the Rev. Mr. Mitchell we are permitted to present it to our readers in this number of the "Washington Chapel Chronicle."

Bishop Van Buren, in the course of a sermon in the little frame Chapel, called Valley Forge "the Holy of holies of the American people." Dr. Harris with a like inspiration spoke of the Chapel as the "pantheon of Revolutionary Heroes."

During the service the Rev. Mr. Burk announced the death of Mrs. Whitaker and told of the Bishop's request to have the dedication take place as planned. He voiced the sympathy which all felt for the Bishop in his sorrow, and the service concluded with the Church's prayer for his comfort and peace.

At the same time the Rev. Mr. Burk announced that the Massachusetts Society, Sons of the American Revolution, had made such progress in collecting the money for the Massachusetts Bay

that it would be the next to be erected.

Following the service the whole congregation, numbering nearly four hundred, was served with refreshments in the grove about the Chapel. This generous hospitality of Mr. Mitchell gave an added charm to the occasion, and made a fitting close for Maryland Day at Valley Forge.

The Maryland Bay is the fourth in the "Cloister of the Colonies" and adjoins the Virginia Bay. Built like the others of Holmesburg granite and Indiana limestone its tracery gives it a marked individuality. In the Knoxville marble floor is a cast bronze reproduction of the seal of the Colony of Maryland, while the arms of the State are emblazoned on the central boss of the oak ceiling.

In designing the John Benjamin tablet Mr. Milton B. Medary, Jr., the architect of the Chapel, has done a work full of artistic merit. The graceful Gothic border, the richly decorative lettering and the illustrative details of cannon, balls and rammers, combine to make a tablet worthy of a place upon the Chapel walls. Both it and the Maryland seal were cast by the Jno. Williams Co., of New York city.

The John Benjamin tablet is the gift of Mrs. William Henry Pearson, of Boston.

John Benjamin was a descendant, in the fifth generation, from John Benjamin, of Watertown, Massachusetts, and his wife, Abigail Eddy. His father perished in the expedition to Fort William Henry in the year 1758. In the year 1773 he chose his kinsman, Richard Hunnewell, as his guardian. He enlisted into the Continental Army from Colonel William McIntosh's regiment known as the "First Suffolk County Regiment." He participated in the principal engagements of the war. He was in the regiment commanded by Colonel Crane. His youthful patriotism had undoubtedly been whetted by his being a witness of the "Boston Tea Party." He married, on February 15, 1781, in Needham, Massachusetts, Jemima Mills, a descendant, in the fourth generation, of Samuel Mills, of Dedham, Massachusetts, and his wife, Frances Penbroke. Jemima (Mills) Benjamin died after a married life of about twenty years. There were children by a second marriage as well as by this union. About the year 1793 the family removed to Maine. After a life of honor and industry, a life blessed through a consecrated service to his country and to his home, he passed from this life, at the home of his son, Benaiah Benjamin, in Whitefield, Maine.

THE PATRIOT'S HALL.

The Founders' Certificates.

The Founders' Certificates are now ready and are being sent to the Founders as quickly as they are signed. They were designed by Mr. Charles P. Shoffner, of Philadelphia, and are very attractive.

Are you a Founder of the Patriots' Hall, Valley Forge? If not, send one dollar with your name and address to the Rev. W. Herbert Burk, or to Mr. Leslie Jefferis, Bridgeport, Pa. Please be careful to give your name just as you wish it to appear on the Certificate and Founders' Book.

THE FOUNDERS.

The following have been enrolled in the Book of the Founders and will receive Founders' Certificates:

Mrs. Edward Carter, Jr., Towanda, Pa. $1.00
Mrs. Annie Roats Hughes, Port Kennedy, Pa. 1.00
Master John J. Hughes, Port Kennedy, Pa. 1.00
Flag House Chapter, D. A. R., Philadelphia 1.00
Mrs. A. W. Walker, Philadelphia.. 1.00
Mr. Joseph Currie Crawford, West Conshohocken, Pa. 1.00

Mrs. Joseph Currie Crawford, West Conshohocken	1.00
Miss Athalia Lucilla Tiernan Crawford, West Conshohocken	1.00
Miss Elizabeth Long Crawford, W. Conshohocken	1.00
Mr. Winfield Wilson Crawford, West Conshohocken	1.00
Miss Emma Walker Crawford, West Conshohocken	1.00
	$11.00
Previously reported	$38.00
	$49.00

The Valley Forge Museum of American History.

Owing to the failure to secure some of the material required for the new work the opening of the Valley Forge Museum of American History has been delayed. Several weeks will probably elapse before the date can be set, as the building must be thoroughly dry before the relics are arranged in the cases. Meanwhile visitors are interested in the building operations, being especially struck with the massiveness of the walls. We are building for the future as well as for the present.

Mr. Charles M. Todd will add to the value and interest of the museum by the gift of the Valley Forge relics collected by him and his father, Mr. I. Heston Todd. All friends of the Chapel will rejoice at this public-spirited gift, and it is hoped that the example of Mr. Todd will be followed by others who possess relics of the Revolution and especially of Valley Forge.

Mr. James Evans Mitchell desires to express his gratitude to the members of the choirs and of the Washington Chapel Guild for their services in making the dedication of the Maryland Bay such a success.

The Cloister of the Colonies.

THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY.

The Massachusetts Society, Sons of the American Revolution, was officially represented at the dedication of the Maryland Bay by Mr. Calvin Lord, of Boston, a member of the Board of Managers. This society has selected the Bay adjoining the Maryland Bay for the memorial of soldiers and patriots of Massachusetts. Most of the money required for the erection of the Massachusetts Bay is in hand, and the contract for the structural work will soon be made.

The work of securing the means for carrying out this patriotic purpose has been carried on by a most efficient committee, consisting of Mr. Charles F. Read, the Rev. Lewis W. Hicks and Mr. John M. Merriam.

The last appeal, made in the name of Mr. Edward C. Battis, President, and Messrs. John H. Manning, Luke S. Stowe and Alfonso S. Harris, Vice-Presidents, contains the following appreciative criticism of the great work in which we are engaged for God and country:

"The most common objection to the work (the building of the Massachussetts Bay) that has come to our attention is that it is to be incorporated in a group of buildings, a prominent feature of which is an Episcopal Church. To our minds this should not be regarded as an objection, but rather as an argument in its favor. Nowhere during the struggle which ended in our independence was the hand of Providence more signally displayed than at Valley Forge during the dark Winter of 1777-78.

"It was there that Washington is known to have appealed again and again to heaven for that divine aid which he and our fathers believed must be vouchsafed, if they were to be successful in their desperate effort to achieve independence, and it was there

that needed help came in the person of Baron Steuben, through whose efforts the undisciplined soldiery were made fit to meet the disciplined forces of Great Britain and overcome them. What spot, then, in the whole United States is so suitable as Valley Forge for the erection of a memorial church, that shall testify to the faith of our fathers in an overruling Providence, and what branch of the Christian church has a better claim to erect a memorial church of its own order than the one of which Washington was a devout member.

"But a church is to be only one of the features of the proposed noble group of memorial buildings. A hall for patriotic gatherings and the series of thirteen bays of a cloister, one of which we have voted to contribute, are forever to witness to the appreciation which their descendants have of the courage and devotion of our Revolutionary soldiers and their great leader."

Washington Memorial Chapel,

Valley Forge, Pa.

THE REV. W. HERBERT BURK
MINISTER IN CHARGE,
ALL SAINTS RECTORY, NORRISTOWN.

THE REV. FRANCIS T. H. FINN
ASSISTANT,
PORT KENNEDY.

Mr. Frank Quigg, Treasurer,
Port Kennedy, Pa.
William Rumford, Sexton.

Sundays.

2.30 P. M. Sunday School and Bible Classes.

3.45 P. M. Service and Sermon.

Second Sunday of the month, 10.30 A. M. Service, Sermon and Holy Communion.

Stewart Fund Hall

Sundays.

10.00 A. M. Sunday School and Bible Classes.

11.00 A. M. Service and Sermon.

Calendar.

August 6. The Transfiguration. 3 P. M. Service and Sermon.

August 12. Lawn Fete at Valley Forge.

In the sudden death of Mrs. Hallman, of Valley Forge, the members of the Guild feel they have lost one of their interested members.

Miss Finn has been ill at Cape May. We are glad to know that she is better The Chapel workers miss her cheery encouragement, and hope to have her with us again.

A lawn fete will be given in a charming old orchard in Valley Forge on Wednesday evening, August 12th. It will be full moon. Come and enjoy the fun, music, ice cream, etc.

A Harvest Home will be held in the grove back of the Chapel in September. Please think up what you can send for the occasion. It will be a mixture of amusement, utility and surprises.

The Vestry of All Saints' Church has granted the Rev. Mr. Burk a vacation of two months or longer, in the hope that perfect rest will enable him to recover his strength. The Rev. Mr. Finn will have charge of all the work until Mr. Burk's return.

His many friends will be glad to know that his stay at the shore is benefiting him.

July Fourth was observed at the Chapel by an appropriate service. It was distinctly a "Chapel Day" and the hymns and the sermon had a patriotic ring.

It is on such national days that something of the true meaning of the Washington Memorial Chapel is brought earnestly home to people.

Our love of State should ever kindle our love of God.

Maryland Men in the Revolution.

The Paper read by the Rev. J. Andrews Harris, S. T. D., Rector of St. Paul's Church, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, at the Dedication of the "Maryland Bay" in the Cloister of the Colonies, June 19, 1908.

"Evacuation Day." What is the import of the term? It not unnaturally connects itself with getting out of a dangerous locality to avoid capture by an enemy by running away from him. In this case it means leaving a place to run after an enemy and whip him, if possible, as we shall see.

Let us spend a moment in looking back at the course of events which led to the occupation of Valley Forge by the American army under Washington, and begin the retrospect by noting the condition of things at New York, where it had come from Boston in the summer of 1776 to await the British fleet under Lord Howe, which arrived from Halifax at Staten Island on June 28th to capture New York city and effect a junction with the British force up the Hudson.

The first clash came on Long Island, and Washington was forced to recross the East River to the mainland. His total effective force of 8,000 men could not cope with the 20,000 of Lord Howe

From that time he was mainly on the defensive, stubbornly holding one position after another, as long as possible. hampered not only by the inadequacy of his force, but also by the covert treachery of the infamous General Charles Lee, and the folly of Congress.

The retreat through New Jersey into Pennsylvania, covered by Maryland troops under Smallwood, followed; then came the dash upon Trenton and Princeton, which astounded and for a time checked the British commander, and revived the sinking hopes of the Colonies. The winter passed at Morristown was spent in recruiting and reorganizing the army.

The British had retired to New York, and their next move was to attack Philadelphia with a force which sailed up Chesapeake Bay, and landed at Elkton. Then followed the Battle of Brandywine, on September 11, 1777; finally, the Battle of Germantown, October 4, 1777. Desultory skirmishing ensued for some time, and on December 17 Washington went into winter quarters at Valley Forge, having accomplished his purpose of keeping Howe from joining Burgoyne on the Hudson before the Battle of Saratoga, and, by strongly fortifying the position at Valley Forge, made Howe unwilling to venture an assault upon it.

So, between December 17, 1777, and June 19, 1778, there was no more fighting. But there was enough without it to try men's souls and bodies, too. A page from John Fiske's "American Revolution" tersely describes the situation. (Vol. II, p. 28.) He says:

"The dreadful sufferings of Washington's army at Valley Forge have called forth the pity and the admiration of historians, but the point of the story is lost unless we realize that this misery resulted from gross mismanagement rather than from the poverty of the country. As the poor soldiers marched on the 17th of December (1777) to their winter quarters, their route could be traced on the snow by the blood that oozed from bare, frost-bitten feet; yet at the same moment, says Gordon, 'hogsheads of shoes, stockings and clothing were lying at different places on the roads and in the woods, perishing for want of teams, or of money to pay the teamsters.' On the 23d Washington informed Congress that he had in camp 2,898 men 'unfit for duty, because they are barefoot and otherwise naked.' For want of blankets, many were fain 'to sit up all night by fires, instead of taking comfortable rest in

a natural and common way.' Cold and hunger daily added many to the sick list, and in the crowded hospitals, which were for the most part frail huts or mere wigwams woven of twisted boughs, men sometimes died for want of straw to put between themselves and the frozen ground on which they lay. In the deficiency of oxen and draft horses, gallant men volunteered to serve as beasts of burden, and, yoking themselves to wagons, dragged into camp such meagre supplies as they obtain for their sick and exhausted comrades. So great was the distress that there were times when, in case of an attack by the enemy, scarcely 2,000 men could have been gotten under arms When one thinks of these sad consequences wrought by a negligent Quartermaster and a deranged Commissariat, one is strongly reminded of the remark once made by Charles Lee, when with caustic alliteration he described Congress as 'a stable of stupid cattle that stumbled at every step.' "

Added to these difficulties was the infamous Conway cabal, which endeavored, happily without success, to undermine the public confidence in Washington and drive him from the command of the army.

There was, however, one gleam of light and hope amid all the gloom at Valley Forge, which illuminated the future career of the army, and that was the presence in the camp of Baron von Steuben, one of the most distinguished of European soldiers.

While the American army was full of patriotic zeal, valor, and self devotion. it was, with some exceptions, deficient in military discipline and tactical knowledge; grave defects when contending with a thoroughly drilled and highly disciplined enemy, and the heroes of Valley Forge possessed these defects

These drawbacks Von Steuben was appointed to remedy. As Fiske writes, he soon perceived "in the ragged and motley army, which he passed in review, the existence of soldierly qualities which needed nothing so much as training;" and he proceeded to train them. . . . "It was a revelation to the American troops. Generals, colonels, captains were fired by the contagion of his example and his tremendous enthusiasm. . . . He was struck with the quickness with which the common soldiers learned their lesson." It is true, his method was rather of the *fortiter in re* than the *suaviter in modo*, but for all that, the soldiers became fond of and admired their testy instructor. "He had a harmlessly choleric temper, which was part of his overflowing vigor, and sometimes, when drilling an awkward squad (as his stock of English was slender), he would exhaust his stock of French and German oaths, and shout for his aide to come and curse the blockheads in English. 'Viens, mon ami Walker," he would say, 'viens, mon bon ami. Sacre bleu! Gott verdamn de gaucherie of des badauds. Je ne puis plus. I can curse them no more!' "

Yet in an incredibly short time, as he afterwards wrote, these awkward fellows had acquired a military air, had learned to carry their arms, and know how to form into columns, deploy, and execute maneuvers with precision. . . . His manual of tactics, long after the death of its author, held its place as the Blue Book of our army.

His lessons speedily bore good fruit at the Battle of Monmouth and, thereafter, during the war.

"Thus," as Fiske says, "from the terrible winter at Valley Forge, in which the accumulated evils of Congressional mismanagement had done their best to destroy the army, it came forth, nevertheless, stronger in organization and bolder in spirit than ever before."

Sir William Howe had grown sick of the war, resigned, and had returned to England, leaving Sir Henry Clinton at Philadelphia in command of the British

forces in America. Clinton rightly judged that Philadelphia was a point of no strategic value, especially since the recent treaty with France had made it likely that a French fleet might come up the Delaware. Accordingly, he started with his army for New York across New Jersey. On the morning of June 18th his rear guard marched out of Philadelphia, and on the evening of the same day the American advance guard marched in and took possession of the city, followed by the remainder of the army on the following day.

Washington quickly pursued Clinton, and the Battle of Monmouth followed; a battle which, but for the treason of Charles Lee, bade fair to be an overwhelming victory for the Americans. As it was, Clinton barely succeeded in escaping to New York with a completely demoralized force, where, so far as the story of Valley Forge is concerned, we take leave of him.

(To be continued.)

Miss Crawford wishes to thank all those who so generously and graciously helped her with the entertainment on Saturday evening, July 11th. We are indebted to Mrs. George Yarrow for the ice cream and to Mr. and Mrs. Sommers for taking charge of the serving of it. Any one with experience knows what labor that means. The success of the cake and candy table was due to Miss Mary Walker, and many of the numbers on the program we owe to Mrs. Charles Wells Walker. The Port Kennedy Band was a great addition to the occasion and gave the lawn a very festive air, which was further enhanced by the lovely Japanese lanterns furnished by Mr. Bomberger. The following program was rendered:

Duet, instrumental, Miss Crawford and Miss Athalia Crawford

Reading, Mr. Malcolm M. Coppuch, whose droll interpretation kept his hearers in gales of laughter.

Pickanniny Chorus, members of the choir; leader, Miss Eleanor Andrews. They did not seem at all afraid of the audience even if they were of the "bogey man," and they were recalled vigorously.

Monologue, Miss Dobson. No words are needed to extol her excellence. You should have heard her, "that's all."

Vocal selection, "There Let Me Rest," given by Mrs. McComb. Encored from wihin and without the building. The encore was that charming little raccoon song of Neidlinger's, "Swingin' in de win'," beautifully rendered.

Instrumental trio, "The Three Sisters," the Misses Crawford.

Vocal trio, "A Slight Mistake," sung by Miss Eleanor Walker, Miss Edith Walker and Miss Jane Todd. "Those children were the loveliest things; I almost cried, they were so sweet," was the comment of a listener.

Selection by the Port Kennedy Band in their usual excellent style.

Vocal selection, Miss Margaret Bomberger. Miss Bomberger was rightly a great favorite with every one. Her voice is lovely and her interpretation is very natural and charming.

Monologue, "The Shop Girl," Miss Dobson. The hit of the evening. "I would give the price of admission over again just to hear Miss Dobson give the 'Shop Girl.'"

The Star Spangled Banner chorus in costume, accompanied by the band, led by Mr. Kratz. Master George Todd was the standard bearer and brought his forces out in good order. The audience enthusiastically joined in the last stanza.

After the entertainment the guests adjourned to the lawn to enjoy the moonlight and ice cream.

The regular midsummer meeting of the Guild was held on Wednesday, July 1st, on the chapel lawn. The usual business was transacted.